

"Salus populi suprema lex est."

Wembley Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

CHARLES E. GODDARD, M.D., M.R.C.S.,

L.R.C.P., A.K.C.,

with MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, *is*

FOR THE YEAR 1904. *completing*

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Medical Officer's Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wembley Urban District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Tenth Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary condition of the Wembley Urban District for the year 1904.

POPULATION.

The population of the District in the middle of that year was estimated to be 5,200.

NEW HOUSES.

During 1904 you passed plans for 130 new houses, of which about 70 have been occupied.

AREA.

The area of the District is 4,564 acres.

THE BIRTH-RATE.

The Registrar of Births has forwarded a list of 144 births that occurred in the District in 1904—73 boys, 71 girls. Estimating the population as 5,200 the birth-rate per 1,000 is 27.7—a fair average, though slightly less than in 1903.

Two factors tend to keep up your birth-rate; one the advent to the locality of an abnormal number of newly-married couples; the other that the working classes are in the majority.

THE DEATH-RATE.

There were 59 deaths registered in the District in 1904.

In the first quarter	15
„ second „	15
„ third „	15
„ fourth „	14
	—
	59

From this total I have to record a higher death-rate, viz., 11.2 per 1,000 of population, not really a high rate, but much in excess of 1903, when it stood at 8.7.

I regret to say that last year appears to have been a very fatal one for the old people of the District. Out of 59 deaths no less than 18 were of persons over 70 years of age, whose average age amounted to 79 years—the youngest being 70, the oldest 97. Of great interest in the last case was the fact that his faculties were perfect to the last day of life, and his memory was exceedingly good, for he told me only a few days before his death that he quite well remembered the rejoicings after the battle of Waterloo.

Of interest too, in the study of longevity, is the fact with regard to this old man, that, though he lived in comfort with his son in his last few years in Sudbury, the rest of his life was passed amidst surroundings where ease and luxury were practically unknown.

It is with regret too that I have to inform you that out of the 59 deaths, 18 were children under the age of twelve months, that is at the rate of 125 per 1,000. This Infantile death-rate is becoming one of the most serious of health problems, implying as it does an almost complete failure of our present method of the rearing of infants, especially among the working-classes. Indeed, it is now pointed out by eminent authorities that some radical and immediate action should be taken to ward off the danger to our national existence that this state of affairs portends, as much by a diminished population as by a damaged and degenerate race.

It is a well recognised fact that maternal nursing is becoming more and more impracticable and impossible, and consequently the majority of infants must be artificially reared. The failure to secure for the child a proper substitute-food arises, with a few, from neglect and from intemperance; with a great number it arises solely from *ignorance*.

In previous Reports I have referred to the necessity of providing the child with the best and purest milk obtainable, and at a reasonable cost. Now I insist upon the knowledge of the proper modification of this milk being placed in the hands of those who have the care of the young. With a view to assisting in this direction to a small extent, I suggest that rules for the guidance of mothers be formulated in your Sanitary Department, examined and approved by a Specialist of note, and sent to the parents of every child born in the District, if necessary, through the Registrar, at the earliest date after the birth. I am aware that this will only touch the fringe of the subject, but I hope to remind you of it again at an early date.

I notice that as a causation of death HEART DISEASE figures no less than nine times in the list—five times directly—four times indirectly. Evidence, if such were needed, of the stress of our modern artificial life!

CANCER, or malignant disease as we prefer to call it, claimed six of our number—an excess of an previous year—but taking the mean of the last ten years, the average annual rate has been 3.1, so that we are not in one of those areas where cancer is said specially to prevail. It is to be regretted that we are still no nearer to any certain knowledge of its origin and causation, but of this we are assured by recent and eminent authority that this disease is not, relative to the population, really on the increase, nor is it, I am glad to state, any longer regarded as an hereditary disease.

Four persons died from DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS, four suddenly, of these two by ACCIDENT, one a child by OVERLAYING, one on the railway, the other one SUICIDAL. Seven children died from intestinal or abdominal disorder, of which DIARRHŒA was the chief symptom. Three infants died from too early an introduction to life, two from MEASLES. Two persons died APOPLETIC, five from PULMONARY DISEASE, one from PERITONITIS and three from PHTHISIS.

Though it is satisfactory to note that only three died from consumption during 1904, I should be glad indeed to hear that you were disposed to make provision for the years when we have several cases, by subscribing to an Open-air Sanatorium, to which could be sent one or two of our poor consumptives for a definite period each year. The scheme for Middlesex has only just been formulated, and already many districts have embraced the opportunity of securing one or two beds. I hardly think you realise what a number of lives are annually lost from this disease, and for no other reason than because the patient is poor and cannot afford this easy, and yet almost certain, cure in the early stages. Gentlemen, you give very little money, comparatively, to the department for which I am responsible, and yet no cause could present a stronger claim to the public purse than the Public Health, so that when I ask shortly for your contribution to a bed in the new County Sanatorium, I trust you will see your way to accede to the request. It must be of far greater moment to the State to spend a comparatively small sum in the prevention of disease, and to permanently cure all who can be reached in the early stage—especially of such a disease as tuberculosis—than it is to spend millions in multiplying colossal establishments for the treatment of those hopelessly ill, whether they be mentally or physically afflicted, and while I am referring to this matter the prevention of disease, and particularly, because I am bound to keep you informed of all matters affecting the Health of the district, I must tell you that during the year 1904 it has become more than ever impressed upon me that our young men are not sufficiently protected from venereal disease. I tell you this plain unvarnished truth, without any discussion of the moral phase of the question upon which, no doubt, we all feel strongly, but I am sure that if you see the matter from the same point of view that I do, you will lose no time in making due representation of the fact to the Parliamentary Committee of the British Medical Association, and to the Local Government Board. It must be, indeed, a spurious modesty that keeps perpetually in the background the further consideration of a problem of such grave concern to the Public Health, and to the youth of this country. Huge sums are spent, and rightly spent, on the prevention of small-pox, but practically nothing is spent on the prevention of venereal diseases, which in their results, are sometimes even more disastrous.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 1904 there were 15 cases of infectious disease notified as occurring in the District.

Of these eight were cases of ERYSIPELAS.

Of these five were cases of DIPHTHERIA.

Of these one was a case of TYPHOID.

Of these one was a case of SMALL-POX.

The erysipelatous cases occurred in every part of the District, and except in two cases, do not appear to have been connected. Erysipelas is so highly infectious, and so often serious in its results, that every precaution is taken to arrest its progress—hence your Sanitary Officers have been careful to disinfect as thoroughly as possible after each case.

Four of the cases of DIPHTHERIA occurred in Sudbury, and one in Alperton. One of the Sudbury cases was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Willesden, and required tracheotomy immediately on arriving.

The SMALL-POX case occurred at the Sudbury Girls' Home in the middle of July; the infection appears to have been received early in the month when the patient was in London for the day. No time was lost in isolating by sending her to the Hospital Cottage at Alperton. The diagnosis was verified by Dr. Henderson Mitchell as one of SMALL-POX, MODIFIED BY EARLY VACCINATION. Nearly all the children (100 in number) at the Home had been previously protected by vaccination, but all were examined, and the few doubtful ones were re-vaccinated. Fortunately, the case was a mild one, and no fresh one arose, but the expense entailed, in spite of every effort to be economical, was considerable, and you may remember that you defrayed half the cost as the patient came from a charitable Institution.

The TYPHOID case occurred in December last at the Harrow Baths, which are known by the term "The Ducker," the patient being the caretaker. Realising the gravity of having this case in such a locality, I have been in communication with the Headmaster of Harrow School, and was assured that the baths would not be used till the summer, and also wrote several times to the doctor attending, and am assured that the precautions taken there, in the matter of disinfection, are such that no fresh outbreak from this source need be anticipated.

No case of SCARLATINA was reported during 1904.

The epidemic of MEASLES which began early in December, 1903, became very prevalent in January of 1904, and was responsible for the deaths of two young children. The Council Schools and Sunday Schools, which had been closed in the middle of December, were not re-opened to the children till the end of January.

Each week I have now to supply the Medical Officer of the County a list of the infectious notifiable diseases in the district, and in return I receive a list of all the notifiable infectious disease, properly classified, occurring in all of the 36 districts of the County.

Your consent to pay a small fee to the practitioner attending a case of diphtheria for a bacteriological examination of the membrane, and for the antitoxin for bona-fide poor folk, has done much to obtaining an early diagnosis and securing the best treatment in every case. When advice is sought in the first two or three days of the disease there is little danger of a fatal termination, except in very malignant cases, after the use of the serum.

I am instructed by the Medical Officer of the County to make note of certain Sanitary details annually, which, having been mentioned in the previous reports, may appear superfluous in this one, but are evidently required for official purposes. In the first place, as regards an ISOLATION HOSPITAL for infectious disease. We have not deemed the erection and maintaining of such an establishment necessary, because the total of such cases has never reached the number that would justify you in doing so. In 1904, for instance, no case of scarlatina was reported in the whole District. Yet there is no doubt that you should bear in mind that a suitable site will be required for this purpose in a few years. So long as the average of notifiable infectious disease is low in the District, and so long as the arrangement with the Willesden District holds good for the use of their Isolation Hospital, I imagine the Local Government Board will not compel you to erect and maintain a Fever Hospital of your own.

Our Cottage Hospital at Alperton makes an excellent Isolation Hospital for small-pox.

The HORSE AMBULANCE, except for the conveyance of small-pox patients, for which it was purchased originally, is really too crude and rough for other cases. I suggest that you purchase a properly constructed one, not necessarily quite new, but in good condition, and built for the purpose. I have no doubt we should get what we require at between £30 or £40. There have been many occasions recently when such a conveyance has been needed, and has not been available.

The METHOD OF THE DISINFECTION OF ROOMS is by use of formaline spray and lamps carefully carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. All articles of clothing are disinfected in the Thresh's apparatus below the office. It is questionable whether this is a suitable place to keep this machine. Possibly an outside shed would be preferable.

The MORTUARY that you erected recently behind the Church has been found of service for many cases in 1904.

COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection of HOUSE REFUSE weekly instead of fortnightly gives satisfaction, and is being efficiently carried out. Your Sanitary Inspectors are arranging too for the collection from the out-lying localities.

COWSHEDS, DAIRY, AND MILKSHOPS' ORDER.

Now that you have adopted the Model Regulations under the Order of 1899, there will be less difficulty in dealing with insanitary conditions in the Cowsheds and Dairies.

I am desirous that at the next visit of the County Medical Officer these premises will be in the best condition possible.

There is no good reason why the cows should be kept dirty; the milkers have filthy clothes and hands, and the premises

insanitary and unclean, and in future, I shall report more frequently, with a view to your taking action when occasion requires.

We are fully alive to the necessity of frequent inspections of milkshops, and the premises of small milk vendors, who are now all registered, and particulars of the condition of their premises carefully recorded.

THE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

are not all quite satisfactory. I have reported to you that the Slaughter-House on Wembley Hill should not have your licence granted for certain reasons.

THE BAKE-HOUSES (FIVE IN NUMBER)

are regularly inspected, and usually are found satisfactory ; three of these may be considered underground bakeries, but they are sufficiently ventilated and lighted to be allowed to remain.

THE PLAGUE OF FLIES

continues every summer, and is, I fear, likely to continue, especially at Alperton. Many causes contribute to this nuisance, and among them may be mentioned the Bone Factory, the piggeries, cartage of manure in large quantities, the conveyance on the canal of barge-loads of putrescible material, but worst of all, the importation and deposit of thousands of tons of house-refuse, known as *rough dust*, from London, by the canal side at Alperton, covering scores of acres of ground. Recently a farmer at Oakington has commenced to import large quantities, but we are hoping that after our recent visits that this will be discontinued. There should be no blinking the fact that sooner or later strong measures will again have to be taken to abate this nuisance, and if necessary, an eminent sanitary expert engaged to advise you on the matter, with a view to settling the question whether Alperton shall continue to be the dumping ground for the filth of London. Another large deposit is going on near the "Pleasure Boat," Alperton, full of decomposing animal and vegetable matter, and I anticipate a grave nuisance from this as soon as warmer weather comes on, unless you are successful in causing the abatement at an early date.

THE PIGGERIES

are a constant and frequent source of nuisance, and must always be a potent factor in the breeding of flies. They are usually kept in fair condition, but nothing short of their banishment from the immediate vicinity of dwelling-houses will be of much use, and for this we must rely on the strict adherence of your bye-laws. I feel sure that it should be a test question to candidates for election to your Board, whether they will be willing to give all possible support to the Council and to the officials in enforcing the strict letter of the bye-laws against these nuisances.

MIDWIVES' ACT, 1902.

We have in the Wembley District no midwife practising as such, nor any woman working in this capacity apart from medical attendance.

DISTRICT NURSE.

But we have in Miss Oliver an excellent District Nurse, who devotes her life to the sick poor of the neighbourhood.

CONVALESCENT HOME LETTERS

are available for bona-fide poor people, through the Trustees of the Copland Village Hospital, to the sea-side or to health resorts such as Buxton, Bath, and other places.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

At the end of this Report you will find, in tabular form, the visits and inspections made under the Act. We have gradually induced all those who have work-places to register, and they are regularly inspected.

THE SEWAGE FARM

is worked economically, and the effluent is always satisfactory. The system consists of open septic tanks, in combination with bacteria beds and land æration.

OVER-CROWDING.

There has been much less over-crowding during 1904, owing mainly to the railway workers leaving gradually, the work slackening off. A number of houses are still unoccupied in Wembley and District. Only eight cases were dealt with last year.

CANAL BOATS.

You have not appointed a Canal Boat Inspector—this, in any case, should be done shortly.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Colne Valley water continues to be of good quality, and during 1904 there seemed no good reason to have a special analysis made.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, CARAVANS, &c.

We always have our share of gipsy vans in the place, but recently, owing to you having issued summons against the owners, they have left sooner, and have not returned; indeed, a great improvement has been effected.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS, &c.

A list of the Sanitary Inspections that were made in 1904 will be found in tabulated form at the end of this Report.

Should you desire fuller information, I can recommend you to examine the Assistant Sanitary Inspector's Journal and registers, where you will find a record of work done in a systematic and careful manner, and such as to fully justify you in having made the appointment. In Mr. Fearn we have one who, without fear or favour, performs his duties, often none too pleasant, in a very efficient way, and without causing unnecessary friction.

To Mr. Cecil Chapman I am always indebted for his ready assistance at all times in the Sanitary Department, and though it is true that a large part of his time is now occupied in the Engineering and Surveying Department, yet we often find his experience of great service in the work.

Gentlemen, I am glad to tender my thanks for the kind consideration and courtesy extended to me during the past year by every member of the Council, and have the honour now to subscribe myself,

Yours faithfully and obediently,

CHARLES E. GODDARD.

(Table II. included in Table I.)

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox.. ..	1					1		One removed to Small-pox Hospital at Alperton, in our own District (Wembley).
Diphtheria	5		5					1
Erysipelas	8	2	1		1	3	1	1
Enteric Fever ..	1					1		
TOTALS	15	2	6		1	5	1	

Isolation Hospital —Have use of Willesden Isolation Hospital on payment of £3 3s. per week per case.

Workhouse.—At Hendon,

TABLE IV.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR
1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of " Residents " whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total deaths in Public Institutions in the district.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Measles	2	2						nil.
Epidemic Influenza ..	1	1						
Diarrhoea }	7	7						
Enteritis }								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3			1		2		
Cancer, malignant disease	6					5	1	
Bronchitis	1	1						
Pneumonia . . .	2			1			1	
Alcoholism }	2					1	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver }								
Premature Birth	3	3						
Heart diseases	5					3	2	
Accidents	3	1				2		
Suicides	1						1	
All other causes	23	3	0	0	0	5	15	
All causes	59	18	0	2	0	18	21	

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS
OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories	2	None.	None.
(Including Factory Laundries.)			
Workshops	30	,,	,,
(Including Workshop Laundries.)			
Workplaces	2	,,	,,
Homeworkers' Premises			
Total	34		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary accommodations				
{ insufficient				
{ unsuitable or defective....	1 case.	Yes.		
{ not separate for sexes	1 case.	Yes.		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100)				
Failure as regard lists of outworkers (S. 107)				
Giving out work to be done in premises which are				
{ unwholesome (S.108)				
{ infected (S. 110)....				
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or small-pox (S. 109)				
Other offences				
Total	2			

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.	
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)	3	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)	{ Notified by H M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors..	
Other		
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—		
In use during 1903		
Certificates granted	{ in 1903	
	{ in 1904	
In use at the end of 1904		
Homework :—		
<i>Lists of Outworkers</i> (S. 107) :—	Lists.	Out-workers
Lists received	1	1
Addresses of outworkers	{ forwarded to other Authorities..... received from other Authorities	
	1	
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises</i> :—	Wearing Apparel.	Other.
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108)		
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises ..		
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110)		
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904 :—		
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	{	
Total number of workshops on Register.....	30	

SANITARY WORK, 1904.

27 written and some verbal.	Inspections.						Notices.				Dwelling-Houses.				Houses let in separate Dwellings or Lodgings.	Common Lodging Houses.		Canal Boats used as Dwellings.		Movable Dwellings, Caravans, Tents, &c.			
		Complaints Received.																					
	15	Cases of Infectious Disease Notified.																					
	all.	Number of Premises periodically Inspected.																					
	Over 300.	Houses Inspected from Houses-to- House.																					
	750	Total Number of Houses, Premises, &c., Inspected.																					
	About 200.	Total Number of Re-inspections after Order or Notice.																					
950	Total Number of Inspections and Re-inspections.																						
70	Letters Written.																						
Work done by letters.	Cautionary Notices Given.																						
60	Statutory Orders Issued.																						
4	Summonses Served.																						
4	Convictions Obtained.																						
	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleansed, Repaired, &c.																						
1	Closed as Unfit for Habitation.																						
nil.	Re-opened after Repairs, Alterations, &c.																						
nil.	Demolished.																						
nil.	Illegal Underground Dwellings Vacated.																						
nil.	Number Registered under Bye-laws.																						
	Periodical Frequency or Number of Inspections.																						
	Number of Contraventions.																						
13	Number Registered under Bye-laws.																						
Every three weeks, and also by night.	Periodical Frequency or Number of Inspections.																						
12	Number of Contraventions.																						
	Number Registered under the Acts.																						
	Periodical Frequency or Number of Inspections.																						
	Number of Contraventions of Regulations.																						
100	Number Observed during the Year.																						
nil.	Number of Nuisances therefrom Abated.																						
all	Number Removed from District.																						

